

NEW RECORDS OF TUBE-NOSED BIRDS (ORDER
PROCELLARIIFORMES) FROM QUEENSLAND

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The number of species of the order Procellariiformes recorded from Queensland is small compared to the number known from other States. For Queensland Lavery (1969) has listed 25 species whereas McGill (1960) records 36 species from New South Wales and Wheeler (1967) 33 species from Victoria. Additional records have been since added to the lists from New South Wales and Victoria and this contribution now documents several new occurrences of Procellariiformes from Queensland.

In view of the wide-ranging nature of many of the Procellariiformes and the proximity of Queensland to the Central Pacific and Tasman regions, the small number of species recorded is probably a reflection of the number of interested bird workers. Undoubtedly many species are yet to be detected in Queensland waters.

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Pterodroma rostrata rostrata (Peale) (Pl. 4)

TAHITI PETREL

A specimen in good condition was picked up dead by David H. Barry on the Eastern Beach of Fraser Island, Qld, on 12 May 1969. The skin prepared by Mr Barry has been lodged in the Queensland Museum [Q.M. O11165]. Measurements in millimetres are: exposed culmen 38.7, tarsus 48.2, wing 309.0, and tail 124.0.

Two subspecies of *Pterodroma rostrata* are known. One, *P. r. becki*, is known only from the region of the Solomons Islands and Bismarck Archipelago. The specimen under discussion is referable to the larger, nominate subspecies which breeds on islands in the

New Caledonia area, Society and Marquesa Groups during the winter months and ranges the equatorial Pacific. *P. rostrata* has not been previously recorded from Australia, however a live specimen was captured off Port Moresby, Papua, recently (W. Filewood, pers. comm.).

***Pterodroma melanopus* (Gmelin)**

BROWN-HEADED PETREL

A specimen in poor condition was found at Eastern Beach, Fraser Island, by Miss M. Hawken on 8 May 1967. The head has been made up as a study specimen [Q.M. O11004]. The determination was made on the basis of bill-shape and facial markings. The exposed culmen of the specimen measured 34.5 mm.

Pterodroma melanopus breeds on Lord Howe Island during the winter months. It formerly bred on Norfolk Island. Odd beach-washed birds have been reported from New South Wales and New Zealand. During the summer months the species apparently ranges widely into the North Pacific.

***Pterodroma macroptera gouldi* (Hutton)**

GREY-FACED PETREL

A male specimen in good condition was found dead at Caloundra, Qld, by R. Elks on 3 February 1967. The specimen was prepared into a study skin [Q.M. O11005]. Measurements in millimetres are: exposed culmen 36.4, tarsus 40.7, wing 302.0, tail 132.0. The specimen was determined to race on the basis of measurements and face colouration.

P. m. gouldi breeds on islands and headlands in the New Zealand region during the summer months and ranges widely throughout the Pacific. It is not surprising that the Queensland specimen is of the New Zealand breeding form, this subspecies being recorded occasionally along the New South Wales coast (Hindwood, 1957). *P. m. albani* breeds on the islands off the southwest coast of Western Australia, and has been recorded on a few occasions from Victoria. The nominate subspecies breeds in the sub-antarctic islands and ranges through the Atlantic.

***Pelagodroma marina dulciae* Mathews**

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL

A live specimen found at Eagle Farm, Brisbane, was presented to the Queensland Museum by R. Shortis on 8 August 1967. The specimen, an adult female, died shortly afterwards and was prepared as a study skin [Q.M. O11172]. Measurements in millimetres are: exposed culmen 16.7, tarsus 41.8, wing 145.0, and tail 74.0.

Not unexpectedly, it is an example of the Australian breeding race which breeds as close to Queensland as the Broughton Islands. The specimen was determined to race using the characters given by Oliver (1955). This specimen would appear to be the first recorded from Queensland.

***Pachyptila salvini salvini* (Mathews)**

MEDIUM-BILLED PRION

A male specimen in good condition was found at Oxley, Brisbane, on 15 July 1954, and presented to the Queensland Museum by the Royal Queensland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty. This specimen was mounted but has since been relaxed to a cabinet skin [Q.M. 05412]. Measurements in millimetres are: exposed culmen length 29.4, width 15.4, tarsus 32.5, wing 188.0 and tail 96.0.

Two races have been suggested, the larger *P. s. salvini* breeding on Marion Island in the southwest Indian Ocean, and the smaller *P. s. crozeti*, breeding on the Crozet Islands which are approximately 1000 miles to the east. Falla (1940) records both subspecies for New Zealand seas, with *P. s. salvini* in greater numbers. The generally larger measurements of Q.M. 05412 indicate it is probably of the nominate race.

According to McGill (1960) good numbers of *P. salvini* have been found during the winter months strewn on beaches near Sydney and to the south. This is the first record of this species for Queensland.

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